

2E2SHB 1491 - S AMD 496

By Senator Hasegawa

NOT ADOPTED 06/30/2015

1 On page 2, line 6, after "(2)" insert "The legislature also finds
2 that despite the proven success of targeted early learning programs, a
3 targeted approach will always leave out some children who would
4 benefit from access to high-quality programming, including some
5 disadvantaged children as well as children from working class families
6 who simply may be unable to afford the full cost of top-quality
7 programs. The legislature also finds that school readiness is not just
8 an issue for children living in poverty, it is also an issue for
9 middle-class children who lag behind their wealthy peers in both
10 cognitive and social skills. The legislature finds further that
11 voluntary universal preschool programs have the potential to be
12 significantly more effective because they serve disadvantaged children
13 in heterogeneous classes and all children benefit when all of their
14 classmates are better prepared for school success. The legislature,
15 therefore, intends to continue building capacity while also focusing
16 on quality in state-supported, targeted early learning programs, with
17 the long-term goal of pursuing strategies to implement a voluntary
18 universal high-quality early learning program that would be available
19 to all children in the state.

20 (3)"

21 EFFECT: Makes legislative findings about the benefits of
voluntary universal preschool access. Declares legislative intent to
pursue strategies to support a voluntary universal program of high-
quality early learning, available to all children in the state.

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